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By *ADAM FITZ-ADAM.*

To be continued every THURSDAY.

THURSDAY, *June* the 10th, 1756.

To Mr. FITZ-ADAM,

SIR,

YOU have reading and experience enough to know, that ſome of the greateſt ornaments and conveniencies of life owe their riſe to inconſiderable beginnings; and on the contrary, that little abuſes and miſtakes, by continual repetitions and agravations, have grown into calamities, which have ſeverely exerciſed, as well the wiſdom, as the patience of mankind. In this light it is hoped the following petition

petition will be conſidered. It was not drawn up barely to amuſe your readers for five or ſix minutes, but with a view to very important conſequences that may poſſibly be derived from it. Your labours ſufficiently intimate that you conſider your ſpecies as one great family, of which you are a member, and conſequently under an obligation to countenance every thing that has a tendency to it's advancement. It is for that reaſon application is made to you.

I am,

SIR,

Your conſtant reader

and humble ſervant.

THE

HUMBLE PETITION

OF

ALL THE LETTERS IN THE ALPHABET, EXCEPT E, AND O.

SHEWETH,

THAT your petitioners cannot without great violence to their modeſty, inſiſt upon any thing that may reflect honour upon themſelves; but the neceſſity of the caſe will plead their excuſe, and therefore they beg leave moſt humbly to repreſent, that in conjunction with E and O, they have been for many ages, in a great part of the world, the only ſupport of the whole intercourſe of human life. By them men have been enabled to converſe when they met,

met, and to communicate their thoughts to each other at any diſtance. By them the ſocial pleaſures exiſt, are multiplied and improved, to a degree not eaſily conceived by thoſe, who either from ignorance, or a too conſtant familiarity, are apt to contract a ſort of contempt for objects of the greateſt uſe.

THE body which your petitioners almoſt entirely compoſe, is known to conſiſt but of few individuals; and the buſineſs they are employed in is infinite: yet no tranſaction has ever ſuffered from any defect in them. Under proper direction, they never fail to execute what is intended, though in the courſe of their ſervice, circumſtances frequently occur of the niceſt and moſt delicate nature. By their intervention contending princes diſpute their claims of empire. Upon them depend divines, ſtateſmen, lawyers and phyſicians, all profeſſions, all trades; and with their aſſiſtance the beggar aſks his alms. An influence more extenſive, more univerſal, is hardly to be imagined: ſo many and ſo great are the purpoſes anſwered by your petitioners: a ſociety, that does more honour to the ſpecies, than all others put together.

BUT the utility and importance of your petitioners have, for their foundation, a perfect harmony and good underſtanding among themſelves; inaſmuch as the leaſt diſſention may prove of fatal conſequence: for ſhould any one of them withdraw his aſſiſtance from the reſt, their activity, which qualifies them for all employments,

ments, would in a moment ceaſe, and they muſt become, in the ſtricteſt ſenſe of the words, dead letters.

NEVERTHELESS ſo it is, that certain perſons, either through folly or perverſeneſs, have opened a door to diſcord, an enemy ever upon the watch, and that muſt inevitably prevail, if a ſpeedy and effectual ſtop be not put to a practice, which has for many years had it's favourers in the greateſt and moſt polite aſſembly of this metropolis. A thouſand witneſſes might be produced to prove, that at every Ridotto, part of the company is ſeated at a round table, which has a hollow moveable circle in the middle, with a declivity from the center, and it's circumference divided into little ſeparate cavities or cells, diſtinguiſhed by the letters E and O, placed over them alternately: the hollow circle is put in motion, and a ſmall ivory ball thrown upon it in a contrary direction; after ſeveral turns, the inclination of the ſurface carries the ball down towards the cavities prepared for it's reception, in one of which, having rebounded ſeveral times, it at laſt reſts, and the parties concerned in this intereſting event ſucceed or fail, as they chance to have choſen, or not, the letter under which the ball happens to ſettle.

Now, ſir, the grievance complained of by your petitioners is, that the game ſhould be wholly and abſolutely governed by E and O, and derive it's name from thoſe letters alone. All impartial judges will acknowledge the preference to be an undue one, ſince all your petitioners are equally qualified for the ſervice, ready to undertake it, and have ſpirit enough to claim a ſhare in the honour.

THERE

THERE is indeed, and there muſt of neceſſity be, a precedence in the order of the alphabet; but this has never yet been underſtood to denote any ſuperior excellence; and granting it did, the two aſſociates in power cannot avail themſelves of that circumſtance, becauſe all who know their letters, and are capable of counting not quite twenty, will find the former of them in the fifth, and the latter in the fourteenth place. Like other favourites therefore, they have been advanced, not for their merit, but altogether from caprice.

THE diſadvantages of this practice are evident to all. The few who are well eſtabliſhed in reading, by a perpetual and cloſe attention to E and O only, may entirely forget your petitioners, and by that means loſe all the advantages of a learned education. As to the many, who have every thing to learn, the danger is, that not one of them will be prevailed on to go a ſtep beyond O, which muſt abſolutely defeat thoſe expectations which the public may have formed from the riſing generation.

THE remedy for theſe evils is however eaſy and certain: it is only to have the letters over the cavities made to ſlide on and off, and to provide a complete alphabet of them; then, beginning with A and B, let them govern for a certain time; next C and D are to preſide, and in this manner a regular rotation is to take place. The uſe of this contrivance muſt be obvious to every body, as a thouſand things might